

# **Washington State Patrol**

## **Media Release**

**Chief John Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: November 2, 2006**  
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### **DUI Arrest Nets Big Cigarette Bust**

A 37- year-old Kirkland man was arrested this weekend for drunk driving and is now potentially facing numerous additional charges for possessing non-taxed cigarettes.

An eastside trooper stopped the Kirkland man for erratic driving and while arresting the driver for DUI noticed a large quantity of cigarettes in the vehicle. A closer inspection of the cigarettes revealed that the cartons were missing the required tax stamps.

"Cigarettes sold in and distributed in Washington State are required to have a stamp placed on the product denoting the required tax was paid. This documentation is also required on most all cigarette products obtained on tribal reservations and military bases even though the taxing requirements are different. This is a classic example of good investigative police work" stated Trooper Jeff Merrill, a WSP spokesman.

An investigation is currently underway involving several agencies to determine if this is an isolated incident or an indication of a larger issue.

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